REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN of SWANZEY,

For the Year Ending February 17th,

1868.

KEENE:
PRINTED AT THE CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE.
1868.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

We, the undersigned, Selectmen of Swanzey, respectfully submit the following report, for the year ending Feb. 17, 1868:

APRIL INVOICE, 1867.

Total valuation including polls,	$607,115 00	
Rate per cent.,	02	
		$1,214,230 00
Tax on 82 male dogs,	82 00	
" " 8 female "	16 00	
Non-resident highway tax,	73 89	
Amount committed to the collector,		$12,314 19

RECEIPTS FOR 1867.

Cash remaining in the Treasury at the close of last years report,	$1,426, 37	
Balance of tax in the hands of the Collector for 1866,	962 80	
Cash of Collector for 1865,	259 74	
" " " " 1863,	3 17	
		$2,652 08

BORROWED

SINCE REPORT FOR LAST YEAR.

Mar. 5, 1867, of	A. Guernsey,	$1,200 00		
" 26, " "	H. Newman,	1,000 00		
Apr. 16, " "	Almerine Spear,	500 00		
" " " "	Emily P. Spear,	150 00		
Oct. 1, " "	C. Woodcock,	50 00		
" 7, " "	E. R. Baley,	800 00		
" " " "	M. J. Baley,	600 00		
" " " "	Phœbe Wheeler,	800 00		
Oct. 1, " "	E. Stephenson,	50 00		
" " " "	M. Fisher,	225 00		
Jan. 1, 1868, "	Emily P. Spear,	50 00		
" 25, " "	J. C. Webber,	200 00		
Dec. 14, 1867, "	Arvilla S. Wlibur,	133 51		
				$5,758 51

RECEIPTS CONTINUED.

Received from the State, Savings Bank tax for 1867,	$257 54
Received from the State R. Road tax for 1867,	198 52
" " " " Literary fund " "	72 90
" " " " U. S. Bounties	240 00
" " " County support of A. J. Underwood,	269 73
Received from sale of old Bridge Timber,	4 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid	J. Parsons,	services for 1866,	$112 00
"	S. Faulkner,	" "	110 00
"	T. T. Wetherbee,	" "	100 00

Paid	G. I. Cutler, S. S. Committee, for 1866,	50 00	
"	E. Howes, Treasurer, "	25 00	
"	A. A. Stanley, Collector, "	62 00	
"	A. S. Whitcomb, Clerk, "	43 45	
"	B. F. Lombard, Moderator, 1867,	3 00	
"	Geo. Whitcomb, Sexton, "	31 83	
"	V. A. Holbrook, " 1866,	23 00	
"	" " Constable, "	20 64	
			$580 92
Paid	State Treasurer State Tax,	$3,262 50	
"	County " County "	1,321 92	

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid	Charles Green, outstanding order,	$18 50
"	Jonathan Jackson, Breaking Roads,	5 64
"	Amos Davis, Snowing Bridge,	6 00
"	Amasa Ballou, Breaking Roads,	9 42
"	Geo. H Moore, Snowing Bridge,	4 00
"	Geo. Leonard, Breaking Roads,	6 42
"	J. W. Frink, Bridge Plank,	8 62
"	Benjamin Read, Bridge Plank,	4 72
"	L. N. Howes, labor on Bridge,	2 00
"	George Cross, Snowing Bridge,	8 00
"	Aaron Lebourveau, Breaking Roads,	5 00
"	Wm. C. Belding, labor on highway,	6 50
"	A. B. Dickinson, Breaking Roads,	6 00
"	Arthur O'Neal, for Culvert and fill in place of East Bridge on the causeway,	300 00
"	Leander Page, labor on highway,	6 93
"	Alonzo Ballou, " " "	2 66
"	Henry Eames, Bridge Plank,	19 96
"	Edwin Hill, labor on Bridge,	7 00
"	Willard Field, Repairing highways,	99 69
"	Darius E. Wright, " "	77 50
"	Holbrook & Harris, new bridge and abutment,	560 00

Paid B. F. Lombard, labor on highways,	5 54	
" Samuel Thomposn, timber and labor on highway,	12 78	
" J. R. Rogers, labor on highway,	10 00	
" Isaac Starkey, Bridge plank and labor,	22 35	
" Edwin Snow, Repairing highways,	207 06	
" J. A. Beal, " "	31 33	
" E. A. Thatcher, Breaking Roads,	8 00	
" Sylvander Stone, labor on Bridge,	4 00	
" Edwin Hill, " " "	11 75	
" P. D. Angier, Repairing Bridge,	40 00	
" Alfred Britton, " highways,	100 00	
" Henry Eames, Bridge Plank,	28 24	
" Marcus Bullard, labor on Highway,	9 60	
" G. G. Willis, Bridge plank,	50 91	
" Amasa Fuller, Labor on highway,	9 50	
" Chiron Holbrook, Bridge Plank,	1 56	
" John Lebourveau labor on highway,	11 75	
		$1,725 93

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1, Orin Dickinson,	$97 42	
" " 2, Leonard Lyman,	197 07	
" " 3, Lyman A. Tenney,	98 20	
" " 4, Alonzo Ballou,	95 89	
" " 5, Jonas L. Moore,	140 99	
" " 6, James C. Eames,	67 03	
" " 7, P. D. Angier,	126 06	
" " 8, Marcus Bullard,	105 39	
" " 9, Lorenzo N. Hews,	98 04	
" " 10, Willard Adams,	152 02	
" " 11, P. F. Aldrich, Jr.,	221 88	
" " 12, Jonathan Hill,	46 18	
" " 13, Benjamin Whitcomb.	130 48	
		$1,576 65

NOTES AND INTEREST PAID SINCE REPORT FOR LAST YEAR.

Z. L. Taft's Estate, note and interest,	$176 39
Wheeler & Faulkner, interest,	10 80
C. Whitcomb & Co., "	600 00
Geo. W. Faulkner, note and interest,	101 15
Arvilla S. Wilbur, " "	39 20
Geo. Cross, "	6 00
Z. L. Taft's Estate, "	32 98
Martha I. Graves, note and interest,	349 52
Frank Hill, endorsed on note held by A. Whitcomb,	71 38
John Withington, interest,	16 07
D. R. Marshall, "	18 00
Congregational Society,	7 20
Mary L. Wilson, note and interest,	466 20
E. C. Fiske, note and interest,	746 08
Orin F. Oakman, interest,	18 00
Silence Starkey, endorsed on note,	30 00
Arvilla S. Wilbur, interest,	17 92
J. D. Ware, "	21 00
Francis Cook, "	60 40
Orin F. Oakman, "	12 72
Asahel W. Dunton, note and interest,	586 51
Wheeler & Faulkner, " " "	184 07
D. R. Marshall, "	18 00
Ahas Cass, note and interest,	116 51
Savings Bank Keene, "	660 00
Luke Ellor, note and interest,	133 75
Mary E. Patridge, note and interest,	276 13
Calvin Bryant's Estate, note and interest,	1,076 96
Vesta W. Stone,	109 00
J. N. Foristall,	372 34
Martha I. Graves, int., note held by Page,	47 75
A. Baley's Estate, note and interest,	529 08
Calvin Bryant's Estate, note and interest,	484 56
Sophrona Hunt, interest,	18 00
E. Howes, "	84 00
Ahas Cass, endorsed on note,	50 00

Misses Ball, interest on Atherton note,	30 00	
Noah Youngman, endorsed on note,	95 50	
Arvilla S. Wilbur, interest,	20 00	
J. C. Webber, note and interest,	89 44	
Nathan Winch, "	93 75	
Z. L. Taft Estate, note and interest,	537 95	
B. Pierce, interest,	390 62	
Arvilla S. Wilbur, notes and interest	133 51	
J. C. Webber, notes and interest,	100 50	
Marshall Rixford, endorsed on note,	37 08	
		$9,076 02

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid for support of Otis Olcott,	$186 45	
" " S. P. Bennett,	175 10	
" " Jacob Stephenson,	45 14	
" " Mrs. Joseph Hill,	78 00	
" " Willet Family,	90 17	
" " Josiah Wilson,	15 85	
" " Amasa Boorne's Family,	11 11	
" " Mary Riley and child,	24 85	
" " French Families,	8 14	
" " A. J. Underwood and Sarah Dickinson,	490 72	
" " Esther Underwood,	10 00	
		$1,135 53

INCIDENTALS.

Paid Wheeler and Faulkner, retaining fee,	$5 00
" E. Howes, tolling bell for 1866,	10 25
" E. H. Aldrich, tolling bell for 1866,	5 00
" Morse & Allen, printing Town Reports,	30 00
" " " Mortgage Book,	6 50
" Geo. H. Tilden, Blank Books,	13 50
" E. R. Osgood, for 2 Hearses,	430 00

Paid Martin Perry, for watering place,	3 00	
" Geo. H. Tilden, for blank Record Book,	9 50	
" O. L. French, publishing notice of discontinuing highway,	7 50	
" F. F. Lane, attorney fee on Road case.	82 16	
" S. S. Wilkinson, 2 Burial Straps,	5 50	
" Wm. Read, watering place,	3 00	
" E. Stone, Damage to sheep by dogs,	28 00	
" Geo. Bidewell, " "	18 00	
" Abatement of taxes for 1865,	18 08	
" S. Thompson, watering place,	3 00	
" Abatements of taxes for 1866,	131 00	
" Geo. Tilden, general Statute,	5 00	
" Non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	14 15	
" G. G. Willis, Cemetery Receipt,	3 33	
" Sylvander Stone " "	3 33	
		$834 80

RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in Treasury at close of report for 1866,	$1,426 37	
Balance of tax in Collectors' hands, "	962 80	
Received of Collector, 1865,	259 74	
Total amount money tax assessed for 1867, including non-resident highway tax,	12,314 19	
Borrowed since report for last year,	5,758 51	
Received of Collector for 1863,	3 17	
Received of State, Savings Bank tax for 1867,	257 54	
" " Railroad tax "	198 52	
" " Literary fund, "	72 90	
" " U. S. Bounties,	240 00	
" County Support of A. J. Underwood,	269 73	
" From sale of old Bridge timber and plank,	4 00	
		$21,767 47

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Town Officers,	$580 92	
" State Tax,	3,262 50	
" County "	1,321 92	
" Repairs of highways and bridges,	1,725 93	
" Support of Schools,	1,576 65	
" Notes and Interest,	9,076 02	
" Support of poor,	1,135 53	
" Incidentals,	834 80	
Remaining in Collector's hands,	1,498 97	
" in Treasury,	727 71	
Note U. S. Collector for 1866,	26 52	
		$21,767 47

LIABILITIES.

Dec. 3, 1861, Note at Savings Bank Keene,	$1000 00
Sept. 14, 1862, " " "	6000 00
Nov. 3, 1862, " " "	2000 00
Dec. 25, 1863, " " "	2000 00
" 1, " " Nathan Winch,	1562 50
Nov. 1, " " E. Howes,	1400 00
Oct. 6, " " A. & J. Holbrook,	750 00
Jan. 1, 1864, A. Kingsbury,	500 00
" 24, 1863, J. D. Ware,	350 00
" 26, 1865, A. Starkey,	4200 00
Apr. 11, 1863, Mrs. W. H. Knight,	200 00
" 1, " John Withington,	130 00
Dec. 30, " Miss Almira Sawyer,	75 00
" 29, " B. Pierce,	6500 00
" " " Atherton, held by the Misses Ball,	500 00
May 26, 1864, Miss R. Williams,	50 00
" " " Congregational Society,	120 00
Jan. 7, " Adams Kingsbury,	1500 00
July 21, " D. R. Marshall,	300 00
Aug. 30, " Mrs. H. J. Clark,	300 00

Sept. 5,	1864,	C. Whitcomb & Co.,	10,000 00
" 2,	"	Baley Corlis,	250 00
May 5,	"	Francis Cook,	1000 00
July 15,	"	H. S. Appin,	300 00
Oct. 1,	"	Marshall Rixford,	300 00
Oct. 5,	"	Francis Hills, held by A. Whitcomb,	198 35
" 6,	"	M. I. Graves, held by S. Page.	250 00
Nov. 22,	"	Noah Youngman,	500 00
Jan. 9,	1865,	Lyman Holbrook,	125 00
" 16,	"	Lucy A. Taft,	326 00
" 9,	"	Meranda J. Holbrook,	75 00
Feb. 1,	"	Ahaz Cass,	200 00
" 9,	"	A. & J. Holbrook,	300 00
" 9,	"	Noah Perry,	300 00
" "	"	Mrs. S. Bryant,	100 00
July 1,	"	O. F. Oakman,	100 00
" 7,	"	S. Starkey,	150 00
Oct. 21,	"	D. W. Harris,	50 00
Nov. 14,	"	A. Starkey,	2000 00
Sept. 25,	"	Mrs. S. Hunt,	300 00
Feb. 12,	"	C. Marble,	250 00
" 14,	1866,	S. Willis,	395 00
" 19,	"	J. Stratton,	1000 00
Mar. 10,	"	L. Taft,	600 00
" 30,	"	E. Marble,	100 00
May 5,	"	O, F. Oakman,	300 00
June 13,	"	J. Stratton,	438 87
Sept. 10,	"	Chas. Talbott,	140 00
Oct. 18,	"	A. Fuller,	200 00
Sept. 11,	1865,	L. R. Starkey,	300 00
Jan. 1,	1867,	E. S. Crouch,	100 00
		Geo. Cross,	100 00
Mar. 5,	"	A Guernsey,	1200 00
" 26,	"	H. Newman,	1000 00
Apr. 16,	"	Almerine Spear,	500 00
" "	"	E. P. Spear,	150 00
Oct. 1,	"	C Woodcock,	50 00
" "	"	E. Stephenson,	50 00

Oct. 7, 1867.	M. J. Bailey,	$600 00	
" 7, "	E. R. Bailey,	800 00	
" 7, "	P. Wheeler,	800 00	
" 21, "	M. Fisher,	225 00	
Dec. 14, "	A. S. Wilbur,	133 51	
Jan. 1, 1868.	E. P. Spear,	50 00	
" 25, "	J. C. Webber,	200 00	
Estimated due Town Officers for 1867,		600 00	
" interest due on notes,		1000 00	
			$57,544 23

ASSETS.

Cash in the Treasury,	$727 71	
Note U. S. Collector, for 1866,	26 52	
Ballance of tax in Collector's hands,	1498 97	
Due from County for support of the following County paupers, A. J. Underwood,	135 88	
For French families,	8 14	
Mary Riley & child,	24 85	
Esther Underwood,	10 00	
		$2,432 07

Total amount of Liabilities,	$57,544 23	
" " Assets,	2,432 07	
Leaving the indebtedness of the town to the date, February 17, 1868,		$55,112 16

The slight increase of the town debt is attributable to the increased expenditure for the repairs of highways and bridges, occasioned by the extraordinary freshet in August. We would suggest to the town the propriety of adopting some new method of keeping the highways and bridges in repair, with a view to economy in this item of expense.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN FAULKNER,
THOMAS T. WETHERBEE,
LYMAN HOLBROOK,
Selectmen of Swanzey.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following Report of the condition of the Common Schools of Swanzey for the year ending March 10, 1868, is respectfully submitted.

District No. 1.—The *Summer* term of this sshool was taught by Miss Nellie S. Frink, who commenced with the right determination to succeed in the work she had undertaken.

The second week found the school well organized and in good working order. At the closing examination it was seen that her purpose and efforts had not been in vain. The scholars had been well instructed, and they manifested in their studies a good degree of interest. Their appearance in every respect indicated *improvement.* The teacher's method was to teach thoroughly rather than to pass over too much which was not understood.

The parents and others here show considerable interest in visiting school.

Mr. Delavan Belding began the *Winter* term, as it appeared, with fair prospects of success. After teaching fifteen days he declined to continue longer in charge. His reasons given for thus deserting the school was "That he would not waste his time in teaching where the scholars would not try to learn."

No. 2. There was no *Summer* term on account of the

new school-house not then being completed. A *Winter* term, which is expected to be about 18 weeks in length, is now in session, kept by Mr. Geo. G. Willis, who is giving the best of satisfaction, and doing an excellent work. The school now comprises about 69 different pupils who are well classified, and enjoying the advantages of a good school.

No. 3. The *Summer* term of this school was successfully taught by Miss Lucia A. Taylor. The teacher and scholars here worked together in harmony. Such union, with parental co-operation, ever secures success for a school. Good progress was made by all classes. Those in the Mental Arithmetic and Geography did particularly well, and had received a good share of attention.

The *Winter* term was taught by Miss Ella E. Rockwood. This was a successful term. The scholars were particularly taught the fundamental elements, and their minds burdened less with the cumbrous language of the text-books. The teacher in her remarks of the school said, "That the scholars have shown a determination to learn, and a willingness to be taught seldom seen in scholars of their age." The recitations and exercises at the close of the school were excellent, and a good uumber ot visitors were present on the occasion, although they came in a snow storm.

No. 4. Miss Ella E. Rockwood taught in the *Summer*. This term sustained the hitherto good reputation of the school. There are scholars here who manitest their pride in well-doing. At both visits of the Committee their appearance was respectful and orderly. Not a tardy mark defaced the records of attendance. Such is a credit to the district. Excellent progress was made. A good number of visitors was present at the closing examination, including Rev. Mr. Roberts, who spoke then in commendation of the school.

The *Winter* term was in the charge of Miss Ellen Taft. The teacher and pupils were well united, and the school was a pleasant one. Decided improvement was made by many of the classes. The class in the New Practical Arithmetic deserve especial notice for the amount of work they accomplished in that study.

No. 5. Miss Mary E. Green had charge of the *Summer* term. She made commendable exertions for the welfare of her school. But a better union of the *school elements* was necessary for complete success. Some of the scholars did particularly well, for which, at the final examination, the teacher took occasion to give particular credit, which was their due. By the Register it was judged that there was a lack of appreciation on the part of a few of the importance of a full and regular attendance.

The *Winter* term was kept by Miss Jennie A. Faulkner. Her attainments and pleasing manner secured for her the esteem and confidence of her pupils. Those who gave their full attendance during the term made good improvement. This was evidence that they had enjoyed good advantages at school. The classes in Geography recited well. Those in the New Practical Arithmetic made marked improvement. Other classes were very fair.

No. 6. The *Summer* term was taught by Miss Jennie F. Bolles. Her school appeared well during the examinations. Many of the scholars made excellent progress; others did very well. But, with more of the *life-moving* element in the teacher, more work would have been accomplished for the greater benefit of the school. Some of these scholars are bound to do well at all events, and make a "shining mark."

The *Winter* term, under the instruction of Miss Abbie L. Parker, gave excellent satisfaction. Her school was a *live* one; and a becoming interest was manifested with the scholars in their studies and performance of their school-

duties. The closing examination was attended by an unusually large number of visitors. Many or these were *parents;* and here they show a proper interest for their children at school.

No. 7. Miss Sara L. Dudley taught the *Summer* term of this school. She proved a faithful teacher, but needed more of the *governing* powers, in combination with her literary qualifications, for complete success in the management of this school. Whispering and divers communications prevailed during the Committee's visits. These were acquired habits which were difficult for the teacher *alone* to eradicate. Yet, for all this, a pleasant relation appeared to exist between teacher and pupils. The classes generally made good improvement during the term; and the last examination gave evidence that the teacher had labored with fidelity to instruct her pupils.

Miss Mary S. Whitcomb succeeded well in charge of the *Winter* term. She found here a *work* to perform requiring her best efforts and forbearance. Her usual good success attended her; and the school was a profitable one. The classes passed an excellent examination in Geography; and those in Arithmetic did very well. Others mark as average. With but *few exceptions*, the scholars merited the highest marks of deportment.

No. 8. The *Summer* term was taught by Miss Emma F. Reed, who here made her beginning in the art of teaching. Her success was highly satisfactory. This term closed after continuing 5 weeks on account of the whooping cough and other sickness which had disabled most of the scholars from attending. It was regretted by all concerned that the term was thus so soon brought to a close.

The *Winter* term, comprising 13 weeks, was taught by Miss Lucretia A. Holbrook. The teacher labored earnestly and faithfully for her school, and with good success. The relation between teacher and pupils appeared as a

pleasant one. Good improvement was made. The first class in Mental Arithmetic did so well that they deserve especial credit.

No. 9. The *Summer* and *Winter* terms of this school were both taught by Miss Nellie S. Frink, with excellent success. During the first examination of each term the scholars appeared orderly and attentive to their studies. The recitations were good, showing that no pains had been spared by the teacher in her instruction and management. At the closing examination we were gratified to see so many parents and friends of education present. The classes in Geography appeared finely, and their specimens of map-drawing were well executed. One class in Mental Arithmetic equalled the best to be found in our schools. Here was only one tardy mark for the Summer and four for the Winter term.

No. 10. Teacher of the *Summer* term, Miss Chloe P. Holbrook. A very successful term. The teacher's ease and becoming manners in the school-room had a pleasing and commanding influence over her pupils, who made good improvement under her charge.

The *Winter* term was taught by Miss Lucie E. Cook. The success was all we should expect without a better attendance, and a more united support. Scholars of regular attendance, who gave their attention to their school-duties made good improvement, and appeared with credit at the closing examination. Those who can present no good excuse for their irregular and broken attendance, were of no advantage, and of little account to the school. Those of 16 and 17 years, who can present no better deportment than that marked below *zero*, can receive as their just due, only a corresponding *negative* credit. Miss Cook is a well qualified and faithful teacher.

No. 11. The *Summer* and *Winter* terms of this school were both taught by Mrs. Louise B. Wright, who has been

the teacher employed in this district for the last three years. This school for the past year has been unusually prosperous and harmonious. 42 different pupils attended during the Summer, and 56 in the Winter term. The classes have made steady advancement during the year, and show a good degree of improvement. This school is well classified, and now has a uniformity of text-books, with Greenleaf's Arithmetics, with which all are provided who study Arithmetic.

No. 12. There was only one term of this school which commenced Aug. 19th, and continued 12 weeks; taught by Miss Stella M. Scott. This was her first school. With only 10 pupils the teacher could not make a great trial of her skill in the art of teaching. But she proved herself faithful, and all the progress that could be expected was made. This school, although small, could be better classified. Here every pupil in Geography and Arithmetic constituted a separate class.

No. 13. Both *Summer* and *Winter* terms of this school were in charge of Mrs. E. Jennie Cutler. The scholars of this district have done well. Of the 42 attending during the Summer, the average attendance was 40 1-2, and only 2 tardy marks for the term. In the Winter there were 48 different scholars, with an average attendance of 45, and 30 scholars neither absent or tardy. The school was an interesting one; and at the closing examination there was a promptness in recitations which showed that the scholars had a practical knowledge of whatever they had studied at school.

The twenty-four different terms of school herein reported have been in charge of nineteen different teachers, in-

cluding those who are now keeping at the time this Report is concluded. There is an increase in the number of visits by "citizens and others" in our schools this year over those of last year. This is a mark of progress. A few of our Prudential Committees have failed to visit their schools. With such, it appears, they cannot afford the time!

Seven of the teachers of this year taught in town last year. One of them has been retained for six successive terms in the same school; another for three terms. One has taught three terms in town this year, two of these terms being in the same district. Our best teachers, who have proved themselves as such, are those generally to be preferred and employed to teach our schools.

In addition to the schools now reported, a successful *Fall term* of SELECT SCHOOL was taught by MRS. WRIGHT at West Swanzey.

PROSPERITY.

The prosperity of our Schools depends very much upon our united efforts to sustain them. But there is a general want of that united support necessary to secure the highest degree of success desirable. Some new means remains to be devised to arouse the educational interests of the people more effectually, and open their minds more to a just appreciation of the importance of our Common Schools; for it is there, in the humble school-room, where mind and character are developed, and where the spirit of intelligence and enterprize, which distinguishes society and the Commonwealth, made its beginning.

We are inclined to feel that the means for increasing the general interest for the welfare of our schools are becoming exhausted. No means can ever avail to unite every one in the work of educational reform. A few will remain behind and opposed to anything like reform, and be very slow to acknowledge any improvement. They would be-

lieve that our schools now possess no advantages over those in former times, when the qualification of a teacher was regarded more for his physical strength to wield the beach and ferule, than for those higher qualities of *mind*, and that aptitude for teaching, which we now regard.

If we have made no improvement in our schools, through all our educational experience of the past, we must believe that mind cannot improve by higher culture, and that the "Laws of Nature" are reversed.

Our Common School System has not yet attained its zenith of perfection. If the schools of New Hampshire are not equal to those of some other States, it cannot be because our Legislatures have not enacted their *school-laws*, but because we have not been as liberal in our appropriations for education.

If we would have better schools, we must use the proper means to improve them. Our great want now is, more *live, well-qualified teachers.* The inquiries for such are many, and the demand for them increases. When we can afford to pay such teachers for their services, we shall find more of them in the field, and then we can have them at the market price. For the present price of teaching there are but few who are encouraged to prepare for the business, and still fewer who can afford to follow it. Our male teachers have nearly left the field to engage in other employments for which they receive a higher remuneration. We cannot expect them to teach our schools while they receive better pay for their services in the mechanic's shop, and at various other employments. If we would secure greater prosperity for our schools we must maintain the proper standard for the qualification of teachers, and extend our liberality so as to secure sufficient amount of schooling; and those teachers should be employed who are *alive* in the business, and able to do the work their position requires of them.

DISCIPLINE.

Young female teachers, with small experience, are but poorly fitted to discipline our larger schools, in many of which the governing qualities of the teacher are the first in requisition. Our teachers all need the undivided support and co-operation of parents. The harmony of many a school has been marred, and the prosperity seriously affected, by an irregular and broken attendance; and perhaps by the disgraceful conduct of some one scholar, or a few who are devoid of shame, with no natural sense of propriety or high culture. We consider parents in a very large degree responsible for the misconduct of their children at school. Those who do not obey at home dislike very much to obey at school, and are there inclined to rebel against the rules and requirements of the teacher. Those teachers of less determination of character, who have not sufficient self-assurance in their own ability to govern, will often fail in the discipline of such scholars. A teacher should exercise proper discretion, and have the ability to manage, and courage to correct the misconduct of any scholar, and give all to understand that the rules and regulations of school *must be obeyed.*

SCHOOL HOUSES.

A good house constructed for the convenience and happiness of a school and properly furnished, should never be considered as a useless and costly extravagance, but as a better means of encouragement for the education and well-doing of those pupils.

District No. 2 have finally succeeded in a most worthy enterprize. That old worn-out structure of a house has been removed to a more desirable location, enlarged, remodeled, and transformed into a thoroughly finished modern school house. The new house was dedicated on the evening of the 21st of November. An appropriate address

was delivered on the occasion by A. A. Ware, Esq., besides which there were remarks from others, with poems, essays, singing by the choir, and music by Unionville Band. The occasion was a most interesting one, and all those of the district present appeared proudly conscious that the erection of such a house was an honor both to themselves and the town of Swanzey. The cost of the house, including furniture, is estimated $3100.00

No. 1 have expended the amount of $800.00 for the improvement of their house. The interior has been thoroughly renovated and enlarged, and furnished with modern single desks with chair seats. It is also furnished with a sufficient amount of black-boards.

No. 4 have repaired and improved their house by subscription. A little paint, paper, and whitewash only remain to be applied to complete the *toilet*, the work intended.

Districts Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9, and 12 need to make some, or considerable repairs for the better health and comfort of their pupils.

The school-room in No. 13 is too small. A large room with more desks and black-board, and better ventilation would be a great improvement.

Nos. 11 and 13, we believe, should be united under the provision of the law to form one school district.

Too many of our school-houses are nearly destitute of furniture. Not a school-room in town has a set of out-line maps. These are a necessary apparatus in our larger schools for the study of Geography. Some of our teachers have made a good use of black-board in the exercise of map-drawing. But most of our school-rooms have not sufficient amount of that material; and what there is, is often in some unsightly place, as in corners, behind the stove, where the heat in the winter is often intolerable; or behind the "teacher's desk," where, should you be invited to a seat, the marks of chalk would be upon you, and, if

you would witness an operation thereupon, you must retreat to the floor, or to a seat among the pupils.

CONCLUSION.

In presenting the foregoing Report, your Committee has endeavored to use no favoritism or flattery, but has attempted to give a fair and impartial report of the condition of schools and success of teachers, with only a few suggestions of the neglected wants in these schools.

In view of the increasing demand which popular education has upon us, as Public Citizens, we must be aware that more is now required of us in behalf of Common Schools and Education than was even thought of but a few years ago; and as we advance in the knowledge of the sciences and the art of teaching them, more will be required to meet the urgent demands of the times, and afford the means for a higher and more practical education of our youths.

G. I. CUTLER,
Supt. School Com.

TABLE I.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS,	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	XIII.
Length of School in weeks,	7	No Summer School.	8	8	8	8	10	5	7	$8\frac{7}{10}$	9	No Summer School.	7
Whole number of pupils,	30		21	19	26	15	33	17	28	20	42		42
Males,	14		9	4	12	6	17	7	16	6	20		16
Females,	16		12	15	8	9	16	10	12	14	22		26
Average attendance,	26		19	18	20	$13\frac{1}{2}$	31	15	20	16	38		41
Number of pupils over 16 years,	3		0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1		2
Number of tardinesses,	12		11	0	2	5	5	6	1	8	15		2
Number not absent one-half day,	8		8	13	8	8	5	7	11	8	11		26
Number not tardy,	23		14	15	18	10	29	13	27	11	33		41
Number neither absent or tardy,	7		5	13	6	6	3	7	11	6	9		26
Number of visits of Supt. Committee,	2		2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3		4
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	0		0	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	0		2
Number of visits by Citizens and others,	66		18	42	27	38	22	19	65	12	35		50
Wages of teacher per mo., including board,	$21 00		20 00	16 00	20 00	16 00	20 00	17 00	20 00	24 00	28 00		28 00

TABLE II.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS,	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	XIII.
Length of School in weeks,	Not yet Reported.	Not Finished.	10	12	10	8	10	13	9½	11½	13	12	10
Whole number of pupils,			17	20	24	18	43	23	31	24	56	10	48
Males,			9	11	14	8	26	10	19	9	32	6	23
Females,			8	9	10	10	17	13	12	15	24	4	25
Average attendance,			14	18	19	16	39	20	29	18	50	7	45
Number of pupils over 16 years,			0	3	4	1	7	2	7	3	8	1	4
Number of tardinesses,			9	2	5	17	11	38	4	31	23	5	15
Number not absent one-half day,			3	3	7	8	14	8	35	2	16	1	30
Number not tardy,			9	19	22	11	35	8	12	14	41	8	41
Number neither absent or tardy,			3	3	5	7	11	0	10	2	16	1	30
Number of visits of Supt. Committee,			2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	4	2	3
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,			1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2
Number of visits by Citizens and others,			34	42	21	37	21	42	51	25		25	47
Wages of teacher per mo., including board,			21 00	20 00	27 00	24 00	28 00	23 00	26 00	28 00	40 00	16 00	28 00

TABLE III.

Dists.	Prudential Committee.	Summer Schools.		Winter Schools.	
		Teachers.	Residences.	Teachers.	Residences.
No. 1.	Oren Dickinson,	Miss Nellie S. Frink,	Westport,	Mr. Delavan Belding,	Swanzey,
No. 2.	Leonard Lyman,			Mr. Geo. G. Willis,	Swanzey,
No. 3.	Lyman A. Tenny,	Miss Lucie A. Taylor,	Ashby, Mass.,	Miss Ella E. Rockwood,	Swanzey,
No. 4.	Alonzo Ballou,	Miss Ella E. Rockwood,	Swanzey,	Miss Ellen Taft,	Keene,
No. 5.	Jonas L. Moore,	Miss Mary E. Green,	West Swanzey,	Miss Jennie A. Faulkner,	Westport,
No. 6.	James Eames,	Miss Jennie F. Bolles,	West Swanzey,	Miss Abbie L. Parker,	West Swanzey,
No. 7.	Philip D. Angier,	Miss Sara L. Dudley,	Winchester,	Miss Mary S. Whitcomb,	West Swanzey,
No. 8.	Marcus Bullard,	Miss Emma F. Read,	Westport,	Miss Lucretia A. Holbrook,	Swanzey,
No. 9.	Lorenzo N. Hewes,	Miss Nellie S. Frink,	Westport,	Miss Nellie S. Frink,	Westport,
No. 10.	Willard Adams,	Miss Chloe P. Holbrook,	Keene,	Miss Lucia E. Cook,	Chesterfield,
No. 11.	Paul F. Aldrich, Jr.,	Mrs. Louise B. Wright,	West Swanzey,	Mrs. Louise B. Wright,	West Swanzey,
No. 12.	Jonathan Hill,			Miss Stella M. Scott,	Chesterfield,
No. 13.	Benjamin Whitcomb,	Mrs. E. Jennie Cutler,	West Swanzey,	Mrs. E. Jennie Cutler,	West Swanzey.

TABLE IV.

Districts.	Number of Scholars.	Amount to each District.	Amount to each Scholar.
No. 1.	38	$97 42	$2 56
No. 2.	69	197 07	2 86
No. 3.	22	98 20	4 46
No. 4.	26	95 89	3 69
No. 5.	35	140 99	4 03
No. 6.	19	67 03	3 19
No. 7.	48	126 06	2 63
No. 8.	27	105 39	3 90
No. 9.	35	98 04	2 80
No. 10.	29	152 02	5 27
No. 11.	60	221 88	3 70
No. 12.	10	46 18	4 62
No. 13.	54	130 48	2 41
	472	$1,576 65	Av. $3 34

Raised by Taxation,	$1500.00
Literary Fund,	76.65
Total Public Fund,	$1576.65

Divided by giving each District $15, and the remainder according to the valuation. The amount raised by taxation is but $195 more than the law now obliges the Town to raise.

PUPILS NOT ABSENT OR TARDY DURING A TERM.

District No. 1.
Jennie Forristall,
Geo. H. Forristall,
Eva M. Haskell,
Mary A. Haskell,
Walter S. Hemenway,
Charlie F. Hemenway,
Nettie E. Porter.
(*Winter term* not reported.)

No. 2.—School not finished.

No. 3.
Willie Crouch,
*G. Edward Lane,
Viola Tenney,
Cliffie Tenney,
Flora Wilcox,
Lillie F. Read,
Allen C. Wilcox.

No. 4.
Cora E. Cole,
*Alice C. Eastman,
Geo. O. Ballou,
Emily J. Eastman,
Kate E. Lombard,
Ella F. Marshall,
*Elsie E. Paige,
Clara M. Paige,
*Lilian A. Paige,
Ida E. Paige,
Hannah S. Rockwood,
G. Herbert Rockwood,
Walter A Wright.

No. 5.
Nancie A. Hills,
Mary J. Hills,
Willie B. Hill,
*Lawson E. Moore,
*G. Elwin Moore,
*Arthur R. Moore,
Nettie E. Moore,
Fred. W. Taft.

No. 6.
*Charles H. Bailey,
*Hattie A. Eames,
*Lillie A. Eames,
Clarence J. Eames,
Cora A. Noyes,
*S. Perlina Palmer,
*J. Byron Porter,
Clara F. King.

No. 7.
Abida A. Bolles,
Ellen E. Bolles,
Emma A. Faulkner,

Gertie Faulkner,
Frank S. Faulkner,
George A. Faulkner,
Sam. E. Holbrook,
Ozro H. Holbrook,
Anna L. Read,
Ada M. Reed,
Maggie M. Reed,
David Rumrell,
John F. Sherman,
Mary S. Stowell.

No. 8.

Emma A. Bullard,
Elmer J. Bullard,
Ervin M. Bullard,
Herbert F. Bullard,
Alice E. Chatterton,
Ida M. Kidder,
George W. Stevenson.

No. 9.

Annis M. Brown,
Walter A. Brown,
Ellen M. Fisher,
Nettie L. Hewes,
Flora M. Hewes,
Frank M. Hewes,
*Freddie H. Hewes,
*Lovilla R. Holbrook,
*Nancy M. Holbrook,
Charles H. Holbrook,
Mary L. Harris,
Charles L. Howes,
Walter H. Perry,
Byron D. Perry,
Alice A. Stanley,
George W. Stanley,
*Jennie M. Stanley.

No. 10.

Everett Adams,
Lunett M. Ballou,
Flora E. Chamberlain,
Herbert Chamberlain,
Ellen M. Graves,
Emma J. Hovey,
Ida I. Hovey,
Ada E. Hill.

No. 11.

Annah Aldrich,
Thos. Fitzgerald,
*Mary Greenleaf,
Dennison Hammond,
John O. Howard,
Russell Hill,
Lillias Hill,
John Jackson,
*Fred Rogers,
George Rogers,
Clara Oakman,
Charlie Snow,
*Warren Taft,
Frank Thompson,
George Thompson,
Maria Whitcomb,
Ervin Wright,
Vara Wilson.

No. 12.

Dela M. Leach.

No. 13.

*Julia A. Blanding,
Cora J. Beal,
Leanna Beal,
Sarah J. Cummings,
*Mary F. Fox,
Abbie L. Foster,
*Freddie W. Foster,
*Freddie Hill,
Willie B. Howard,
*Jimmie Esterbrook,
*Mareb L. Johnson,
*Margaret Lonegan,

*James Lonegan,
*John Lonegan,
*Henry S. Leonard,
Hermon G. Leonard,
Jane M. Leonard,
Julia E. Leonard,
Frank A. Pelkey,
Bertie J. Pelkey.
Maria L. Pelkey,
Delpha M. Pelkey,
Maria A. Pelkey,
*Nellie A. Pelkey,
Henry A. Pelkey,
Lucy J. Pelkey,
*Florence V. Pelkey,
Frances E. Pomroy,
*Lillia B. Stevenson,
Mattie D. Stevenson,
*Mary A. L. Seaver,
*Osmon N. Seaver,
*Elmon M. Seaver,
*Nellie M. Whitcomb,
*Addie A. Wheelock,
Guy M. Ward.

*Not absent or tardy during *two* terms.